



President George W. Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS is the largest commitment ever by any nation for an international health initiative dedicated to a single disease—a five-year, \$15 billion, multifaceted approach to combating the disease in more than 120 countries around the world.

U.S. Department of State

U.S. Agency for International Development

U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Department of Commerce

U.S. Department of Labor

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Peace Corps

Mailing address:

**SA-29, 2nd Floor
2201 C Street, NW**

Washington, DC 20522-2920

www.state.gov/s/gac

Critical Interventions: *Gender and HIV/AIDS*

The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (the Emergency Plan) is working with women and girls, providing them with tools and a supportive environment so that they can protect themselves from HIV infection. Under national strategies and in coordination with host governments, America is using many strategies to support women and girls.

Emergency Plan strategies include:

- Making prevention, treatment, and care broadly available to women in Emergency Plan programs
- Supporting drug therapy and counseling to prevent pregnant women from passing the disease to their children
- Supporting the roles of parents and others who can help protect girls
- Strengthening families' and communities' ability to care for orphans and vulnerable children
- Building palliative care capacity, to help relieve the burden on women as home-based caregivers
- Partnering with communities to address problems of sexual coercion and the exploitation of women
- Fighting sex trafficking and prostitution, while still serving victims of these activities

• Supporting successful relationship and anti-violence programs aimed at men and boys to help them develop healthy relationships with women

• Providing post-exposure prophylaxis to rape survivors to reduce the probability of HIV transmission

The U.S. Government is keeping the promise to provide women and girls with tools and a supportive environment so that they can protect themselves from HIV infection...

The following stories are just a few examples of how the Emergency Plan is supporting national strategies and working with host nations to help women and girls build lives free from the shadow of HIV/AIDS.

Men Get Involved in HIV Prevention in South Africa

In South Africa, the Men as Partners project is overhauling male stereotypes steeped in history and social norms so that men can battle one of the world's worst AIDS epidemics. At a one-day workshop held in Tembisa,

a township southeast of Pretoria, the Men as Partners program sought to get men involved in preventing HIV transmission and violence against women. When a facilitator asked the audience why it is important for men to be involved in fighting HIV and AIDS, the session got quite heated and very emotional. One participant stated, "We men are afraid of change. We feel it will make us inferior." Participants stressed that men must be more involved in discussions about sexual activity and HIV/AIDS. Through discussions like this one initiated at the Men

as Partners workshop, men are embracing their responsibility to combat HIV/AIDS.

Ugandan Radio Drama Teaches about Sexual Exploitation

Through funds from the Emergency Plan, a radio serial drama educating youth against the two most common forms of sexual exploitation facing them today was launched in Ntinda, Uganda. The new drama, "Rock Point 256," educates youth on how transactional sex – using sex as a tool to get gifts and favors – and cross-generational sex – sex between a youth and an adult who is 10 or more years older – contributes to high HIV prevalence, early pregnancies and school dropout rates. Rock Point 256 is produced in English and four local languages - Luganda, Runyankole-Rukiga, Runyoro-Rutooro and Luo. The radio series tells the story of four youth living in a fishing and farming community who become involved in transactional sexual relationships. As the drama evolves, listeners learn about behavioral change from the main characters that take them through the consequences of sexual relationships based on inequality rather than mutual respect and love.

A Young Muslim Woman in Ethiopia Serves as a Role Model for Her Peers



As a peer educator, Hindi teaches her friends and members of her community about HIV/AIDS prevention and the importance of staying in school.

Hindi Ahmed is determined to complete her education before getting married. This 16-year-old Muslim woman lives in rural Ethiopia. She is the ninth of 10 children, and her family, like most families in her village, is a farming family. The U.S. Government supports

Hindi's work as a peer educator. In addition to her household chores, Hindi teaches others in her village about HIV/AIDS and family planning. "I want to be a role model to my people and my friends." Hindi advises her young friends to be abstinent and to postpone marriage until they have completed their education. "I teach them through poetry which appeals to young people," she explains. Hindi's determination has helped her stay in school, where she has now completed grade 7.

Empowering Married Women in Cambodia

In an effort to take the fight against HIV/AIDS to the family, the U.S. Government funds a counseling and testing program at the Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia (RHAC). Over 22,400



A housewife is educated by a Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia clinic doctor.

clients have received counseling about HIV/AIDS through the program, including over 7,200 married women. The counseling and testing program is also addressing cultural beliefs that have served as a barrier to the acceptance of new ideas and practices. Topics that were once considered to be forbidden are now being discussed openly at all levels. Female clients say that they feel more comfortable discussing topics such as stress and sexual history with their health providers. In addition, women who participated in the counseling tell counselors that they now are more confident discussing HIV/AIDS prevention with their husbands.

"Ending domestic violence, rape, and sexual abuse is essential to fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS. Women who have control over their own lives -- including economic power and social respect -- have a greater ability to protect themselves against HIV."

**First Lady Laura Bush
September 15, 2005**

President George W. Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is working in 15 of the nations most impacted by the HIV/AIDS pandemic and in other nations worldwide to keep the American people's commitment to support treatment for 2 million HIV-infected people, support prevention of 7 million new infections, and support care for 10 million HIV-infected individuals and AIDS orphans.